

MAINE FARMER

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NO. 28.



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man

A CHAPTER ON PEARS.

We present our readers this week with a very fine representation of an excellent pear, the Bourre de Anjou. This was figured in the New England Farmer, where it was accompanied by the following description of it by Marshall P. Wilder, Esq., who has had much experience in fruiting the best foreign pears at his garden in Dorchester.

Synonyme—No plus Meuris of the German and French Catalogue.

Size—Large.

Form—Obovate, obtuse, pyriform, outline and surface often slightly irregular.

Stem—Short, thick, inserted with much depression.

Calyx—Moderately sunk in a small uneven basin.

Skin—Greenish-yellow, coarsely dotted, russet at the stem and eye, with brownish red check on the sunny side.

Flesh—Yellowish white, very juicy, melting and buttery.

Flavor—Rich sub-acid, with a delicious aroma resembling that of the Brown Bourre.

Season—November to January.

Class—Best.

Trees—Hardy and productive either on the pear or quince stock.

The Bourre de Anjou was introduced by Marshall P. Wilder, from Europe, about ten years ago. Mr. W. considers this variety one of his most valuable acquisitions, and worthy of general dissemination."

There was an increased number of pears planted out in our State during the spring just past. Most of them were upon quince stocks. We hope that every coming spring will see an increasing desire to multiply this delicious fruit among us. Pears on quince stocks being dwarfed come into bearing early, and if they receive good culture as they ought and must, to be made profitable, they will add essentially to the variety of our fruit, and thereby to our innocent luxuries.

But you need not depend upon the quince root for means to the pear tree. It may be done on the pear root itself, and be not only so prolific, but a great deal longer lived.

Whoever visits the nurseries of Messrs. Howe in Cambridgeport, will see some fine specimens of dwarfed pear trees, on pear roots. These bear abundantly, take up less room than full sized trees, and are thrifty and handy. Some very clear and definite directions for doing this have been given by Mr. Stephen H. Ainsworth, of West Bloomfield, N.Y., in a recent number of the Rural New Yorker.

He prefers the pear stock to the genuine stock, for this purpose, and gives his reasons and facts as follows:

"The pear budded on the quince is very liable to break at the union which is always more or less imperfect. Thousands of trees are lost from this cause alone, one which has no influence on pear buds on their own stocks.

2d. The quince is always subject to the borer, and unless grafted so low that it is planted beneath the surface, they will, without great care, destroy it in two or three years—the pear is exempt from it.

3d. The pear budded on the quince is much more liable to the fire blight, than when budded on its own stock.

4th. The life of the pear on the quince is less than half of that on the pear stock.

5th. The pear on the quince requires more attention and higher culture than on its own roots to produce the same results.

6th. After the first few years, and often after the first year, that the pear on the quince comes into bearing, the same variety on the pear stock in the same circumstances, will bear as much if not more fruit than the other, and continues to increase in quantity yearly over the other.

7th. By far the largest portion of varieties are not improved in size or quality if as good on the quince as on their own roots and culture with the same pruning and culture."

It takes from three to five years from the bud to bring the pear on the quince into bearing. And how is this done? The bud is cut back the first year to within a foot of the ground so as to form the head low. Each subsequent year it is headed back about half of each year's growth, which makes a low bushy top, and which tends to form fruit buds and bring the trees into bearing. Now, precisely the same effect is produced by trimming the pear tree in the same manner when budded on its own stock. That is, the head is formed low, the fruit spurs and buds are forced out, and the tree is also brought into bearing from the third to the fifth year from the bud, and which bears as fruitfully from the commencement as the other. Besides, if rightly pruned, it is as perfect and as effectually dwarfed as on the quince.

In short, these facts are all established to a greater or less extent by the following recommendations by the advocates of the dwarf pear trees.

1st. They recommend that the strongest growing quinces be used only for budding the pear on, thus wishing to bring it as near the standard growth as possible.

2d. They recommend the setting of the tree deep so that it may root from the pear above the bud, and say that it makes a stronger, better, and longer lived tree.

If the foregoing remarks are well founded, would it not be well for those intending to plant the pear to give this matter due consideration?"

These facts ought to encourage the farmers



The Bourre d' Anjou Pear.

KEEPING FURS IN SUMMER.

We have two troubles in our part of the country in regard to keeping furs. The first is to get money to buy them for us in the winter, and the second is to preserve them from the depredations of certain kinds of insects in the summer.

There is great use made of them among us, they constitute an item of property, and it is an object to preserve them safely through the summer. Some pack them snugly in boxes with pieces of camphor strewed among them. A writer in the Ohio Cultivator, over the signature of K. H. recommends the following method:

Roll the furs in a compact mass, or close bundle, and wrap around them two or three or more coverings of strong unbroken paper, in such a manner as to prevent the ingress of insects. If this be properly done you may place them in any situation you please, in the light or in the dark, in a drawer or on a shelf until needed.

BLACK KNOT.

The black knot on plum and cherry trees caused by a fungus?

This is the belief of Prof. Brown. He thinks that the peculiar structure of the bark is such as to receive and retain the exceedingly fine seeds of a species of the fungus tribe that float in the air. These becoming thus lodged find suitable soil for their growth in the crevices and sap wood, and grow accordingly, producing those unsightly excrements, and ultimately killing the tree.

If this be true, an antidote may be found in some kind of wash which shall be delusterous to the fungus and not to the plum. It is possible that the good effect which has been attributed to spirits of turpentine in such cases, may be owing to its power of destroying this fungus.

We want a series of careful experiments tried, aided by a powerful microscope, to settle this question.

CHEVIOT SHEEP. We are glad to hear that some of this breed of sheep have been introduced into Maine. They were purchased by Mr. A. P. Chapman, of Bethel, Oxford County, at the sale of the late Daniel Webster. This breed will be valuable to the farmers of Maine on account of their hardiness of constitution and good mutton qualities.

WARTS ON COWS' TEATS. Mr. S. Mitchell, of Cornville, writes us that he had a cow, last summer, whose teats were completely covered with warts. He cured them simply by washing them in alum water. This is easily tried, and our correspondent thinks will prove effective.

SUFFOLK PIGS. We saw some fine specimens of Suffolk pigs at Hiriam Reed's stable, in this city. They are descendants from the Percival stock which came from the Stickney importation.

For the Maine Farmer.

A REMEDY CALLED FOR.

Mr. Editor—I have a cow that is in the habit of "holding up her milk" as it is termed. I would inquire whether any remedy has been discovered to your knowledge, that proves effectual. By giving the required information, you will greatly oblige. Yours,

Concord, June 24th, 1855. A. J. LANE.

NOTE. We have seen a good many infallible remedies for the above trouble, but do not know that any of them may be relied on. Perhaps the following from the Rural New Yorker, is as good a plan as any:

"It is well known that many cows when they first come in, when their calves are taken from them, will hold up their milk, sometimes to such a degree almost to dry themselves before they will give it down. 'A few years ago,' writes a correspondent of an English newspaper, 'I bought a young cow which proved to be very wild, and when I took away her first calf she would not give her milk. I accordingly drove her into a stable, gave her a bushel of grain and put it on her back. While in this position she had no power to hold up her milk, for it came down freely. After doing this a few times, and afterwards putting my hand on the back of the cow, it would give way and she would immediately give down her milk.' The rationale of this treatment appears to be that the weight counteracts the upward tendency of the animal's muscular action."

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS. We are informed by Mr. Chamberlin, of the City Mill, that the farmers of Vermont are in the habit of heading the movements of the weevil by a very simple process. The next season after it makes its appearance, they go through their wheat fields, about the time the wheat is heading, immediately after a shower or while the dew is on it, and scatter newly slacked lime broadcast, so that it will adhere to the heads and stems of the grain. They use about a bushel to the acre.

Good lime should be secured, and slacked, sprinkling a little water over, so as to retain all its strength. A paddle may be used in scattering it. The remedy has, it is said, been effectually tried, as to leave no doubt of the result.

Strips in large wheat fields left untouched by the lime, for experiment, have been entirely destroyed by the weevil, while the grain on each side was all saved.

Since this intelligence was received, Mr. Jess Allen, of the Centre Mill, has received corroborating information from a Muskingum county farmer, who had seen the same results there.

[Akron (Ohio) Beacon.

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CULTIVATION OF ROOT CROPS.

No subject connected with agricultural improvement is more frequently discussed than that of Root Culture. Each root from carrots to common turnips, and from rutabagas to radishes, has its advocates. Yet, with a few exceptions, even our best writers seem to have confused ideas as to the object and effect of an extensive cultivation of root crops, and their consumption on the farm by animals. Most writers advocate the cultivation of root crops because more nutritious food can be obtained from an acre of land in this way than in any other. This is a one-sided view of the matter, and leads to numerous errors in opinion and practice.

The principal reason for the extensive culture of root crops, the effect their growth has on the soil, and the amount of fertilizing matter which their consumption furnishes for the higher order of plants, is overlooked. Nearly, if not quite, as much nutritious matter can be obtained from an acre cultivated with Indian corn as from the same acre cultivated with turnips. In this respect, therefore, there is little advantage in turnips. But, take another view of the subject; suppose that one acre is cultivated with Indian corn, and another, alongside, with turnips, and that the crops from the acres are consumed by animals, and the manure made from them returned respectively to each acre, and both are sown to wheat: the wheat on the turnip acre would be a better crop than on the corn acre. We think there can hardly be the shadow of a doubt on this point.

The value of roots, therefore, is partly, if not principally due to their fertilizing effect on the soil; and in deciding which root to cultivate, we must by all means bear this in mind. We take it for granted that the object of every farmer is to accumulate in his soil as much ammonia as possible; also that wheat, barley, oats, corn, timothy, and other cereal grasses, take from the soil much more ammonia than they contain. In the case of wheat we have good reason to believe that for every pound of ammonia (nitrogen) the crop contains, five pounds of ammonia have been taken up by the plants from the soil. But turnips do not take from the soil any more ammonia than they contain. When the other constituents are present in the soil in sufficient quantity, all the ammonia brought to the soil in rain water is retained by the turnip; while in the case of wheat, &c., it would be given off through the leaves of the plants into the atmosphere, and thus be lost to the farm. In cultivating wheat, therefore, it is a loss to the farm of ammonia, while in cultivating turnips there is a gain, and it is owing to this gain of ammonia that the turnip has done so much for British agriculture.

Such being the case, in deciding which of the roots to cultivate most extensively, we should duly estimate this important quality, and other things being the same, adopt that one, the cultivation of which results in the greatest gain of ammonia to the farm.

Farmers of Maine, if these are facts—and we think they cannot be controverted—you have the key which unlocks the cornucopia within your grasp. By an expenditure of two millions in labor, (average it for the whole State,) you may annually obtain a product in the shape of manure, worth fifteen million dollars,—a profit of only six hundred and fifty per cent. But suppose that for some localities the estimated cost of the swamp muck has been very much too low; suppose we allow even a figure that will pay for hauling miles, say \$1.50 per cord, and when it has undergone composting it should be worth \$3.00 per cord; wouldn't that per cent. be extremely satisfactory in these times? I speak as wise men!

We know that we have many men in Maine who have but little to expend in improvements, however great may be the profits of the investment; but we do know, also, that there are many farmers with money loaned at an interest of 6 to 10 per cent., whose fields are not growing under the abundance of their products, and yet they invest nothing, or next to nothing in swamp muck. If we have manure enough or can obtain enough at a cost not exceeding \$3.00 per cord, for good barn manure, or its equivalent, on our farms, we can, with our superior prices, realize more money than the farmers on the Western prairies. But no manure, no crop. What better business could the small farmers of Maine have than their own, if they had the ability, animal, to manure generously ten acres in potatoes, and as many in corn, or even half that number.

Let us look into the subject a little. In 1850 we produced hay to the amount of three quarters of a million tons. Add to this the corn fodder and the straw of the various grains, and the total quantity of winter "fodder" produced in the State will be swelled to an amount exceeding one million tons. Perhaps farmers are not very unanimous in opinion as to the amount of solid excrement produced by one ton of hay. But for present purposes we will assume that a ton of hay will produce half a cord of solid animal excrement, including such "orts" as usually attend the feeding of cattle.

If this assumption be correct, the million tons of dry winter feed consumed in the State in 1850, produced half a million cords of solid manure during the half year in which the animals were fed at the barn.

Is it assuming too much to suppose that during the summer months what was voided by the cattle in their respective yards or stalls, (and all cattle should be thus enclosed at night,) together with the contents of the hog-styes, the privies, and the ashes produced by our hundred thousand hearths, would amount to an equal bulk, or another half million cords? We think not. And here we repeat it as our firm conviction, that one million cords may be saved annually from the sources we have indicated, and with a slight expenditure of labor over and above that which is now made for the same purpose. But as we have spread before you the data on which we base the calculation, you can judge for yourselves.

Now these excrements in an unfermented state, may be profitably mixed with double the bulk of well rotted swamp muck, and the whole mass after due intermixing and fermentation, will be worth as much to produce corn or potatoes, (or perhaps any other crop,) as the green dung, cord for cord. Thus, by the intermixing of two million cords of pulverized swamp muck with the one million cords of excrement, we have obtained a manure of equal value with the latter, cord for cord, and of three fold the bulk, or three million cords, worth nine million dollars.

Rather, does the amount startle you? With such a fact staring us in the face as this—that the cattle voided as much manure in the summer as in the winter, and the manure is twice as valuable as the muck, it is difficult to conceive how the farmer can afford to neglect the manure.

MEANING OF THE TERM CANKER WORM.

Mr. Editor.—An article in this evening's Journal, entitled Canker Worms, has suggested the practicability of an immediate experiment for testing a method for their destruction that I have often used in destroying the slug, rose bug, etc., and while a resident of Long Island, N. Y., so far tested, in the destruction of the measure worm, (a cousin of the "canker,") as to satisfy me of its efficacy, conditioned that parties contiguous to my estate had tried the same remedy.

The subject is far from being exhausted, but as enough has been advanced to introduce it, and this article is already sufficiently lengthy, I will close by wishing that some of the many correspondents of the Farmer, (or yourself, Mr. Editor,) will favor your humble servant and the public with their views on the matter.

West Moreton, June 20. D. HILL.

THE CANKER WORM.

Mr. Editor.—An article in this evening's Journal, entitled Canker Worms, has suggested the practicability of an immediate experiment for testing a method for their destruction that I have often used in destroying the slug, rose bug, etc., and while a resident of Long Island, N. Y., so far tested, in the destruction of the measure worm, (a cousin of the "canker,") as to satisfy me of its efficacy, conditioned that parties contiguous to my estate had tried the same remedy.

It is true that average crops of these roots contain much more nitrogen and nutritious matter than the turnip crop, and that, supposing the turnip crop to take all that the atmosphere, rain and soil are capable of supplying, it is to be expected that the crops of root bags and mangold wurzels will exceed in quality and quantity of ammonia manure than turnips, and that mangold wurzels must have a full supply of the richest manure.

In growing root bags and mangold wurzels there is also, doubtless, a gain of ammonia, but we question if there is a gain equal to that obtained by growing the common turnip. We know that root bags require a more ammoniacal manure than turnips, and that mangold wurzels will grow on a poor soil, provided it is well supplied with ammonia.

The turnip contains 13 per cent. of dry substance, and this dry substance contains 3 per cent. of nitrogen. Such a crop of turnips, it will be seen, contains 75 lbs. of nitrogen, sufficient for the production of 15 bushels of wheat. In such a case, therefore, without the use of expensive ammoniacal manures, we obtain, besides the turnip, a fair quantity of food, a good supply of ammonia, from natural sources, for the use of subsequent cereal crops.

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WEEDS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

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SCIENCE renders the powers of nature the servants of man, while empiricism subjects man to their service.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE



ARRIVAL OF THE BALTIK.

The steamer Baltic arrived at New York on Thursday morning last, bringing seven days later news from Europe. We present the following summary:—

GREAT BRITAIN.—The principal business in Parliament has been the discussion of Mr. Brough's motion, in favor of decimal coinage, and on Mr. Layard's plan of favor of administrative reform. The former was adopted, but the latter was under debate. It is in the following terms, to which several amendments have been proposed:—"That the House views with deep and increasing concern the state of the nation, and is of opinion that the manner in which merit and efficiency have been sacrificed in public appointments to party and family influence, and to a blind adherence to routine, has given rise to great misfortunes, and threatens to bring discredit upon the national character, and to involve the country in grave disaster."

Mr. Fillmore was presented to Queen Victoria by the Earl of Clarendon, at an audience, and subsequently was present at a Drawing Room reception. Mr. Buxham accompanied him. Mr. Fillmore afterwards dined with the Queen.

Arthur Cunningham supercargo of the American ship Samuel Appleton, denies, in a card to the papers, that the ship carried arms to Russia. An English subject named Rolf was received at Hamburg, on a charge of enlistment for the British foreign legions. The British Government demanded his liberation, and sent the ship-war Officer with the request. In the meantime, Rolf had been liberated and expelled from the city.

The first meeting of the Administrative Reform Association, a new organization on the plan of the Anti-Corn Law League, was held in Drury Lane Theatre on the 13th. Quite a large number of members of Parliament assisted. Loud and strong was made for Sir Charles Napier. The speaker presented himself and was heartily received.

The fortifications at Milford Haven, and elsewhere along the coast, are being armed with 68-pounders.

A new ship-of-war, to be called the "Horn," is being built; of 130 guns, and another is to be laid down of 150 guns.

FRANCE.—A magnificent fete was given on the 11th in the Hotel de Ville, by the Prefect of the Seine, to the King of Portugal; 600 persons were present.

The most interesting intelligence refers to the Empress. Dr. Looock, the celebrated *accoucheur*, who has had considerable experience in Queen Victoria's delivery, was summoned by telegram to Paris, where he is to remain with Dr. Dubois in Conneau. It was formally announced that the Empress is "enclerc."

SPAIN.—Notwithstanding the government's assurance that the Carlist rebellion is put down, there are indications to the contrary. A despatch sent to Paris June 13, gave notice that a number of men left Pamplona on the 11th, and took the direction of the French frontier, to procure arms.

A movement in Catalonia was feared. The French mail which left Paris on the 9th, and the mail which left Madrid on the 10th, were burned by the insurgents in Castile.

The Cortes have rejected a proposition tending to censure the ministry.

ITALY.—The King of Sardinia is about to proceed to London, to negotiate for the hand of the English Princess Royal.

On the eve of the 12th, an attempt was made to assassinate Cardinal Antonelli. The attempt failed, and the assassin was arrested.

RUSSIA.—The Grand Duke Constantine is appointed Regent of Russia, in the event of Alexander's decease.

CHINA.—The news is of little interest. The Imperialists are reported to have gained some trifling advantages over the insurgents.

TURKISH WAR.—This arrival brings telegraphic details of the capture by the French of the Mamelon and White works, after sanguinary fighting, in which 5000 were killed and wounded. The French had 62 guns and 500 prisoners. Their new position enables them to shell the ships of the Sultan.

SINGAPORE.—The English stormers took Kuan-Si-Singh only the English stormers took Kuan-Si-Singh in the quarries, but lost 500 in killed and wounded. Since then the fire has been slack.

The correspondence is down to the 4th. The weather was excessively hot, and all agree that there is a vast amount of disease and despondency in the garrison of Sebastopol.

The Russians are said to have obtained a communication with the Crimea, independent of the road from Perekoff, by constructing a bridge of boats across the Siesta.

Private letters from Kerich give a fearful account of the Russian army, as well as from wounds as sickness.

Intelligence had reached the British Admiralty that the Russians had evacuated Anapa, and were supposed to have crossed the Kuban. The Cretans were in Anatolia.

Telegraphic advices from St. Petersburg of 15th, announced that the old organization of recruits had been recalled, and that heathen forth men would be taken up to the age of 37. The new regulations are also so stringent that it is expressly stated by the government that an only son will be included in the levies, should such a course be necessary to make up the required number.

Gortschakoff telegraphed, as follows to St. Petersburg on the evening of the 8th of June:—"After two days of heavy bombardment, three French divisions attacked Redoubt No. 7, at 6 o'clock last evening, and occupied the redoubts Marouka, Tchelginsk and Bastion No. 1. Our troops took the Krasnoe, but the French pursued in fresh reserves, and took it once more. We finally remained masters of that battery, the French holding a lodgment near, from whence we hope to drive them. Our soldiers fought admirably, in proof of which I may state that the enemy's loss exceeds ours. He has lost 2500 men. We have taken 275 men and officers prisoners, as well as two wounded."

The French now are so far advanced that the allied cavalry water their horses in the Tchernaya without molestation. The Russians do not show in force. Dispatches from the Sea of Azof state that the naval operations against Taganroy, Mariupol and Omsatchi, and a boat expedition is being fitted out against Perekoff.

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AFRICA.—The National Intelligencer states that correspondence has taken place between Mr. Latrobe, the President of the American Colonization Society, and Mr. Gerhard Rabson, a London gentleman who professes a deep interest in its welfare. Mr. Latrobe, in his letter, recommends and urges a confederation of the three settlements of Sierra Leon, Maryland, in Liberia, and the Republic of Liberia. Mr. Rabson, it is thought, will be instrumental in getting the consent of the United States to the formation of a colony.

The details of the proposed confederation are to be received in England before the 18th of June. An explorative expedition is being fitted out at Portsmouth, for service in the shallow waters of the Sea of Azof.

The Russians are about to build a railroad through the Isthmus of Perekoff.

Miss Nightingale is on her way to England. She is convalescent from her attack of fever, but is recommended to recruit her strength at home for a season. Admiral Boxer is dead.—He is succeeded by Admiral Freemantle.

Correspondence gives accounts of the miserable life of the Capitols. For some time past the citizens have been subsisting on a scanty allowance of flour, given out by the British Army forty or fifty dollars from exhaustless stores slow fever, takes place daily; and around the town, the ground has been broken up for cemetery.

This is bad enough, and we fear other accounts equally gloomy from the Loberia and Azul.

Besides there are some aspects of this affair far from satisfactory. It has been done with a great deal of deliberation, one party of the invaders remaining encamped in the town of Tandil for five days; and it is still doubtful whether they have yet retired to a distance from the coast.

Admiral Dundas had gone in very close with the surveying steamer Merlin, and afterwards with a boat, but was not molested by the Russians.

Bauch a shameful occurrence in the Baltic, in which the Russians fired upon a boat bearing a flag of truce, 21 sailors and 3 officers were killed.

THE PUTRID SEA.

By references to a good map of the Crimea, Colton's Map of Europe shows it, it will be seen that a long and irregular shaped gulf extends along the whole northern and eastern coast of that peninsula. This is called the Eastern, or Putrid Sea. It is, however, rather a lagoon than a sea, resembling in many respects the shallow bayous in Southern Louisiana. This sea communicates on the north with the Sea of Azof by the Strait of Yenetsch, which is only a furrow in width, and it is elsewhere separated from that sea by a narrow neck of land, some of them are from five to fifteen miles, and it receives the Salgor, the principal river of the Crimea.

By an east wind the water of the Sea of Azof is forced through the strait, and often covers the surface of the lagoon, while at other times it presents only a pestiferous expanse of mud. It is this sea of which the Allies have obtained a foothold.

Genicci, Gentichi, Donateli, Venitski, as it is variously spelled, and which has been destroyed by the Allies, is situated on the straits at the entrance of this sea, about half a mile east of Perkop. The possession of this neck of land, especially the northern part of the Patria Sa, is navigable for vessels of a smaller class, as is not improbable. It must be obvious upon an inspection of the map, that with the Sea of Azof in the possession of the Allies, the Russian army in the Crimea, is now only dependent upon supplies received by the long and difficult land route via Perkop, and this communication is liable at any moment to be cut off by the occupation of that place. The importance of the Sea of Azof to the Russian army in the Crimea is manifested by the fact which is stated in the report by the British Commissioner of Perkop. 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